

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE MEMORY OF TIM BAER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable political strategist and a superior human being, Mr. Tim Baer.

The Birmingham News recently described Tim as "a plainspoken political operative who helped the GOP take over the state's appellate courts."

Tim was born near Buffalo, New York, and was raised in Pompano Beach, Florida. However, he called Birmingham, Alabama, home for over 30 years.

In 1986, Tim directed a national GOP tele-marketing campaign in 19 states with Republican U.S. Senate candidates. In that year, no Republicans were serving on Alabama's appellate courts. In the following years, Mr. Baer individually managed the victorious campaigns of five Republican hopefuls for the state Supreme Court. He also worked voter identification for numerous Republican candidates in multiple election cycles.

Tim was probably best known for his service as the state of Alabama's Republican Party executive director. He also worked as director of field operations for the Business Council of Alabama, where he raised money for the group's political action committee, Progress PAC. He also served as an aide to former Probate Judge Mark Gaines, where he supervised Jefferson County elections.

In 2000, Tim was instrumental in the successful effort for Alabama Republicans to add to their very slim Supreme Court majority, an effort spearheaded by political consultant Karl Rove. Today, Republicans hold eight of the nine high court seats, due in large part to Tim's efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Tim Baer will be dearly missed by his family—his daughter, Katie Baer; his father, Chet Baer; his sister, Janice Mudd; as well as the countless loyal friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

MAPLE GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maple Grove Elementary School on their 130th Anniversary.

Maple Grove Elementary School is the neighborhood public elementary school at-

tended by my daughters. I am honored to recognize Maple Grove on achieving 130 years of service to the students, parents and community of Golden, Colorado.

Maple Grove is an outstanding elementary school with a rich history in this area. The students, teachers, administrators and parents involved with Maple Grove Elementary School are second to none.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Maple Grove Elementary School on their 130th Anniversary.

HONORING MARY PATTON FOR HER EFFORTS DURING THE REV- OLUTIONARY WAR

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true Tennessee Volunteer. Mary McKeehan Patton was born in England and immigrated to Pennsylvania in the late 1760s. Mary Patton was an apprentice in Pennsylvania where she learned the trade of making gunpowder.

After giving birth to two children in Pennsylvania, Patton moved to the Overmountain region of North Carolina, which is now East Tennessee and part of the First District.

With help from her husband, Andrew Taylor, a private in the Pennsylvania militia, they started their own gunpowder mill on what became known as Powder Branch.

Mary Patton embodied the entrepreneurial spirit that many immigrants who come to America possess. She used this mill to supply gunpowder to militias during the Revolutionary War.

Patton's true Tennessee Volunteer spirit showed when she gave over five hundred pounds of gunpowder to the 850 Overmountain Men for the Battle of Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War. Some say that this victorious battle over the British was a very influential part of the Revolutionary War, and to the eventual founding of our country.

On December 15, 1836, Mary Patton passed away and was buried at Patton-Simmons Cemetery, which is located in my district. The cemetery is located in the historic town of Elizabethton, Tennessee.

This Saturday, June 7, 2008 the Watauga Chapter Tennessee Sons of the American Revolution and The James Sevier Society of the Tennessee Children of the American Revolution will be hosting a memorial service at the grave of Mary Patton and will be honoring her for her efforts and role in the Revolutionary War.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring a true Tennessee Volunteer who embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that has made America the great country that we are today.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 GRAD- UATING CLASS OF THE JAMES H. GROVES ADULT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 2008 Graduating Class of the James H. Groves Adult High School. These students have worked diligently to complete their education and are an excellent example of perseverance and dedication to the State of Delaware.

The James H. Groves Adult High School provides students who have officially withdrawn from high school the opportunity to earn a State of Delaware diploma and further their education. Additionally, the institution provides technical and workplace training to the citizens of Delaware. This institution carefully tailors their program to meet each individual's needs and help them receive their diploma in a timely and affordable manner. Graduates from James H. Groves Adult High School are provided with the foundational knowledge to achieve social, political, and economic independence so they may excel in a technological and global society.

The class of 2008 is comprised of forty-five graduates, twenty-three male and twenty-one female students. Their ages range between eighteen and fifty-eight years of age. Some of these students have been working diligently to achieve their diploma since 1999. One exemplary student has had a perfect attendance record for the three years she attended the institution, earning 8.5 credits towards her diploma. These citizens have toiled industriously and thoroughly to complete their high school education. The highest commendations should be awarded to this 44th graduating class of James H. Groves Adult High School.

I acknowledge the 2008 graduating class of James H. Groves Adult High School for their commitment to finishing their education and the exceptional example they provide to all citizens seeking to complete their high school education. The James H. Groves Adult High School is extremely proud of their graduates and I am confident they shall go on to perform outstanding in their fields and become a vital part of the workforce of Delaware.

HONORING EMD SERONO FOR RE- CEIVING A GOLD MEDAL AS A LAUREATE OF THE COMPUTER WORLD HONORS PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor EMD Serono, headquartered in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Rockland, Massachusetts. On June 2nd they were chosen to be the recipient of the prestigious Gold Medal award as a Laureate of the Computerworld Honors Program for their EasyPod Device. This is in addition to earlier recognition by the Medical Design Excellence Awards for this breakthrough technology.

Established in 1988, The Computerworld Honors Program brings together the principals of the world's foremost information technology companies to recognize and document the achievements of the men, women, organizations and institutions around the world whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change. It is the longest running global program to honor individuals and organizations that use information technology to benefit society.

EMD Serono's EasyPod was selected based on 10 criteria including use of information technology, originality of its conception, the breadth of its vision, and the significance of its benefit to society. This device administers a medication called Saizen to children requiring growth hormone therapy and then monitors their compliance to the treatment schedule for physicians. It is a first of its kind device in this treatment area and an example of the innovation that EMD Serono and other biopharmaceutical companies in Massachusetts develop every year.

Growth deficiency occurs when the body is unable to release or produce adequate amounts of the appropriate hormones. In children, growth deficiency causes slow growth, and without treatment, studies have shown that 18–20 percent of school children who have growth problems have academic problems, at more than 4 times the rate of normal statured counterparts. It is estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 children in the United States have growth failure.

EMD Serono has a long history in Massachusetts of providing for the unmet needs of patients. Through regular innovative breakthroughs, the company is a leader in not only growth deficiency, but also multiple sclerosis, HIV, and infertility. They not only offer the products for physicians to use, but also provide 24 hour call centers to work with doctors and patients supporting their course of therapy.

They also offer robust patient assistance programs and free product to assist families in overcoming financial barriers to treatment.

Congratulations to the employees of EMD Serono for this achievement and the work you do every day to help physicians and patients.

HONORING JAMES DUVALL IV

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Duvall IV of Liberty, Missouri. James is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1320, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Duvall IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN CHRISTIAN DETTLEFF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LCDR John Christian Dettleff of the United States Coast Guard. Lieutenant Commander Dettleff is completing a tour of duty as the Executive Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Diligence* homeported in Wilmington, North Carolina. As he completes this honorable tour of duty, I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and honorable career of service.

Lieutenant Commander Dettleff has faithfully served on the USCGC *Diligence* as the Executive Officer with distinction from 2006 through 2008. As native Wilmingtonians know, USCGC *Diligence* has a long and rich history with the city of Wilmington, which dates back to the original Revenue Cutter *Diligence* being in home port there in 1792 and continues today with the sixth Coast Guard Cutter *Diligence*. Lieutenant Commander Dettleff and his shipmates have ensured that that close relationship between the city of Wilmington and the USCGC *Diligence* continues today.

Lieutenant Commander Dettleff's service to our Nation has been extensive and remarkable. A native of Shoreham, Long Island, New York, he graduated with honors from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He went on to report to the USCGC *Diligence* as a newly graduated ensign. He also served on the USS *Russell* as a participant in the Coast Guard's personnel exchange program with the U.S. Navy and later served as Commanding Officer of USCGC *Point Bridge*, homeported in Marina del Rey, CA.

In June 2002, Lieutenant Commander Dettleff graduated with a masters degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Upon graduation, he reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to begin an assignment as an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities. In addition to his teaching duties, Lieutenant Commander Dettleff also served as the associate director of the Academy's Institute for Leadership.

Madam Speaker, LCDR John Dettleff has served our country with distinction and continued to do so as Executive Officer of the USCGC *Diligence*. I wish LCDR John Dettleff, his wife, and their two children the very best wishes. May God's richest blessings be with them as they transition from Wilmington, North Carolina, to Washington, DC, for a new Coast Guard assignment in the Coast Guard's Office of Congressional Affairs. I ask that you join me today in recognition of his impressive career of courageous duty and enduring public service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican transparency standards, the following are detailed finance plans for each of my requested projects in the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2009, H.R. 5658.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO–05.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: 3600F RDT&E, Air Force, Line 13, PE 0602601F.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Aeroflex. Address of Requesting Entity: 4350 Centennial Blvd. Colorado Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

Description of Request: \$3 million is included in this bill for Radiation Hardened Non-Volatile Memory. This request is intended to aid in the development of radiation hardened non-volatile memory technology to be used in a variety of applications, principally satellites.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO–05.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDTE, AF.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Goodrich Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1275 North Newport Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

Description of Request: \$6 million is included in this bill to fund ACES 5 ejection-seat development and testing for the Air Force-variant F–35 to enable insertion into F–35 LRIP to leverage the most capable and safest ejection seat ever developed and ensure that the U.S. preserves the domestic capability to produce vital life saving ejection seat systems for the Air Force.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO–05.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Analytical Graphics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7150 Campus Drive, Suite 260, Colorado Springs, CO.

Description of Request: \$4 million is included in this bill to incorporate space object data, improve navigation accuracy prediction (including jamming and weapons modeling), and integrate electronic warfare (EW) analysis into a common operational environment for Army support teams. The user friendly interface will couple real time data integration with currently deployed and supported data feeds, including imagery, terrain, GPS status, electronic warfare environment, and terrestrial weather.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO–05.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Finmeccanica of North America.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1625 Eye Street NW, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20006.

Description of Request: \$3 million is included in this budget to demonstrate and qualify in a cold climate an innovative, energy efficient, alternative power technology, on an energy intensive Air Force installation. Utilizing

tactical or readily available fuels, this first phase of qualifying will place a next generation power generator in a military environment while showcasing all the benefits (monetary, environmental, and technical) this technology can provide within various scenarios, such as "Silent Camp" or "Islanding."

RECOGNIZING E'LEESE MADGETT
MANRIQUE FOR HER SERVICE TO
OUR NATION'S MILITARY VET-
ERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special American patriot. This particular American hasn't served overseas defending our freedom and liberty, nor has she dedicated her life to serving her fellow man through charity. However, I'm certain that later in life she'll be able to reflect on her accomplishments and truly realize the impact she has made on so many lives.

Madam Speaker, this patriot's name is E'leese Madgett Manrique, and she is a 12-year-old girl from Buffalo, Minnesota. I call attention to her today because on June 7, she will embark on a mission in honor of our military veterans.

To show her support for our military personnel and their families, she will be leaving the Buffalo Rodeo Grounds on her horse "Chip" at noon this Saturday, and will ride her horse for the next 86 days throughout Minnesota to raise money for a ranch to support our military veterans. Her vision is to create a place where any soldier in need of a place to heal can go for free.

To paint a clearer picture of what "The Ranch" will look like, I'll let E'leese tell you in her own words:

The Ranch will not be fancy, in fact it will be humble. Just like the men and women that serve their country. Here in Minnesota we have a very good life. People in Minnesota have a long tradition of service and volunteering. Neighbor helping neighbor. The Ranch will be a number of cabins surrounding a lodge and dining room. Soldiers can spend the day lounging around. Taking a walk, going for a swim, or taking a horse out for a ride. Do ranch chores or relax, read a book, or have a good conversation, be our guest. For those who do so much for others, we thank you.

E'leese, we thank you. At the tender of age 12, you are displaying more respect, love, and caring than many folks do in a lifetime. As you start your trip this Saturday, know that you have the prayers and support of Minnesota and Americans across the country. We are all proud of you E'leese, and your selflessness is an inspiration to us all. May God bless you on your journey, and we look forward to your safe return.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF KTVB-TV,
BOISE, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to KTVB-TV in Boise, Idaho. KTVB-TV was recently recognized by the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation as the 2008 Friend in Need Television Award recipient for its efforts to end methamphetamine abuse in Idaho.

In March 2007, the KTVB News Group dedicated 100 percent of its public services resources to the "March Against Meth" campaign. This month-long, statewide campaign aimed to stop meth use by educating adults and children about the dangers of methamphetamines. As part of the campaign, KTVB-TV produced an award-winning primetime documentary called "Life or Meth," which played in the homes of families throughout southern Idaho. Within 60 days, 90 percent of the households in southwestern Idaho heard the anti-meth awareness message at least seven times.

Meth is one of the most dangerous substances available on the illegal drug market and has a devastating impact on individuals, families, the environment, and society. My home State of Idaho has the dubious distinction of ranking fifth on the list of States with the highest rates of meth use in the country. Combating the growth of meth use in Idaho has become a top priority for me, but it is clear that winning the war against this epidemic will require a partnership between public and private organizations, individuals, and families in our State and across the country. I am so pleased that KTVB-TV has taken up this fight.

Education about the destructive effects of meth use on individuals and communities is key to ending meth use in Idaho and across the Nation, and I am proud that KTVB-TV's efforts to communicate these dangers to Idaho families have been recognized. It is my honor to work with this company and the dedicated employees at KTVB-TV to make our community a better place to live.

RECOGNIZING THE ABILITYONE
PROGRAM AND THE ARC OF HILO

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the AbilityOne Program, formerly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, which focuses on job skills and training for more than 48,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities.

Last year, I visited the clients and staff of the Arc of Hilo, one of the community partners of the AbilityOne Program in my district. The Arc of Hilo strives to improve the quality of life for people with developmental or other disabilities through educational, recreational, vocational, and skills training as well as employment and residential opportunities. Through these programs, the Arc of Hilo is able to re-

duce incidents of depression, poor health, isolation, exclusion, discrimination, poverty, and substance abuse among this vulnerable population.

The AbilityOne Program allows individuals, like the clients of the Arc of Hilo, to enjoy full participation in our communities. It is an invaluable program.

I would also like to recognize and thank Michael Gleason, the president and CEO of the Arc of Hilo, and his staff, for their dedication to serving the needs of their clients, as well as the clients themselves for their hard work and contribution to our greater society.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S LA-
CROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Syracuse University Men's Lacrosse team, 2008 Division I NCAA National Champions. With their 13-10 victory over Johns Hopkins University on May 26, 2008, the Syracuse Orange won a record 10th National Championship.

The Syracuse Orange had an outstanding season, finishing with an impressive record of 16-2 with a perfect record at home. Their 16 wins ties a school record for most wins in a single season. Syracuse's championship season is especially amazing considering that the team went from a losing season last year, which resulted in missing the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1982, to winning the national title just one season later. The team had four players named to the 2008 All-Tournament team. Additionally, Steven Brooks and Mike Leveille of the Orange were named to the 2008 first-team All America. Mike Leveille was also named the winner of the 2008 Tewaarton Trophy, distinguishing him as the player of the year in men's college lacrosse.

On behalf of the people of the 25th district of New York, I congratulate Head Coach John Desko, Assistant Coaches Lelan Rogers, Roy Simmons III, Kevin Donahue and the players of the Syracuse University Men's Lacrosse Team:

Nate Tucker, Pat Perritt, Peter Coluccini, Matt Abbott, Jack Harmatuk, Max Bartig, Nathan Farabee, Al Cavalieri.

Jake Moulton, Josh Amidon, Kenny Nims, Joel White, Spencer Van Schaack, Steve Babes, Chris Daniello, John Galloway.

Tim Desko, John Carrozza, Matt Tierney, Mike Leveille, Greg Niewieroski, Mike MacDonald, Dan Hardy, Jovan Miller.

Brendan Loftus, John Mecionis, Joe Coulter, Lincoln Cavalieri, Stephen Keogh, Derek Philipiak, Blair Koontz, Evan Brady.

Tim Harder, Sid Smith, Thomas Guadagnolo, Sean McGonigle, Jay Shaw, Tyler Hiawati, Josh Knight, TJ Murphy.

Danny Brennan, Jeff Gilbert, Kyle Guadagnolo, Brandon Conlin, Steven Brooks, Pat Nemes, Alex Giocondi, Anthony Bucco, Gavin Jenkinson.

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2008 Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional.

We have 46 students participating. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Jessica Pester of Millburn High School for her work "Waiting." Second Place was awarded to Rebecca Bailey from West Morris Mendham High School for her work "Mark." Third Place was awarded to Kristen Capote from Parsippany Christian School for her work "Digital Camera."

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official record.

Boonton High School: Cathy Yang's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Elyssa Hunziker's "When I was Seventeen"; Jennifer Vasta's "The Gift"; Steve McKeown's "Self Portrait."

Chatham High School: Anna Zamecka's "Charcoal Still Life"; Grace Oakley's. "Global Fabric"; Michelle Mruk's "Miniature Eggplants and Egg."

Livingston High School: Jordana Geller's "Timelessness"; Kelly Keltos "Carnival"; Victor Xia's "Steel"; Wei Li Cheng's "Vanilla."

Madison High School: Alexandra Coultas "The Luke Miller House"; Frank Wulff, III's "Valor";

Frederick Greis "Elaine"; Kimberly Smith's "He loves me, He loves me not."

Millburn High School: Kelly Blumenthal's "Venetian Landscape"; Jessica Pester's "Waiting" (First Place); Jacqueline San Filippo's "Riding Shadows."

Montville High School: Christine Riccio's "Summer"; Grace Lee's "Spring Flowers"; Jennifer Eishingrelo's "Montville Farmer"; Michael Johnston's "Book Smart."

Morris Knolls High School: Elizabeth Westerman's "Toy Trains"; Liana Kelly's "A Brighter Life"; Jennifer Engleson's "Sunburnt Lawn"; Amanda Wilson's "Inside My Head."

Mount Olive High School: Kristen Cignavitch's "Puzzle Portrait"; Laura Smith's "The Approach"; Olga Kazakova's "Belarus in America"; Rachel Tenenbaum's "Photography."

Parsippany Christian School: Austin Dimare's "Austin Splendor"; Kristen Capote's "Digital Camera" (Third Place); Samantha Dahl's "Go Fish."

Ridge High School: Christina Stillwaggon's "P.M.S."; Frankie Cocuzza's "Untitled #3"; Lara Charavantes' "Purificacao" (Honorable Mention); Sojin Ouh's "Leftovers."

Roxbury High School: Christian Peslak's "Conscious Man"; Sam Knopka's "Self Portrait"; Bret Koblyka's "Self Portrait" (Honorable Mention); Jacob Mandel's "The Artist's Mindset."

Watchung Hills High School: Kim Delli Paoli's "My Vacation."

West Morris Mendham High School: Caitlin Aromando's "Intensity"; Elisa Cecere's "Elephant Eye";

Olivia Sebesky's "Jon"; Rebecca Bailey's "Mark" (Second Place).

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

HONORING BRETT PENNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Penne of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Penne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 366, expressing the sense of Congress that increasing American capabilities in science, mathematics, and technology education should be a national priority.

Two years ago, a National Academies panel led by Norm Augustine produced the "Rising

Above the Gathering Storm" report, highlighting the critical state of our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce.

Although this Congress passed America COMPETES Act last year, much more remains to be done to ensure our Nation is prepared to compete in the global economy in the 21st century. And we simply will not be able to compete if we cannot produce a workforce that excels in STEM fields.

We have barely begun to turn the page in meeting our workforce and innovation demands. I am pleased that the resolution provides us the opportunity to raise awareness of this dire situation. Consider that:

We still graduate half the number of physicists that we did in 1956—before Sputnik spurred our last "great awakening" in science and engineering.

One-third to half of those we graduate with science and engineering degrees are foreign students; and most of them will return to their home countries rather than applying their skills in the U.S.

U.S. patents are down and our companies are spending more on tort legislation than on research and development.

Tests still show that one-third of U.S. students lack the competency to perform the most basic mathematical computations.

Half of the money we made available for grants for college students in STEM fields is going unused.

Our edge in aerospace research is in danger. Our historic prominence in automobiles and electronics manufacturing has long since eroded; we cannot afford to lose our aerospace leadership.

Above all else, I worry about our staggering \$9 trillion debt and \$54 trillion unfunded liability. This debt is being fueled by uncontrollable entitlement program growth—which has grown from one-third of the federal budget in 1960 to over two-thirds today.

This is critically important to our competitiveness because, without reforming entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and tax policy, we simply won't have the resources to prepare our workforce to compete or to make the necessary investments in research.

For the past year, Congressman JIM COOPER, a Democrat from Tennessee, and I have been working closely together on the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act. It has since garnered nearly 100 bipartisan cosponsors. Modeled after the base-closing process, the bill would create a bipartisan 16-member commission to review entitlement spending, tax policy, debt, and all other Federal spending.

The commission will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings—one in each of the Nation's Federal Reserve districts—over the span of 12 months in order to hear directly from the American people. And just like the base-closing process, the SAFE Commission Act would require and up-or-down vote on the commission's proposal—ensuring that Congress finally considered a comprehensive solution to this great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. It is yet another reminder that the next president and Congress must make both entitlement reform and American competitiveness top priorities.

COLORADO ENERGY SCIENCE
CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Colorado Energy Science Center for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Colorado Energy Science Center was "spun off" from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to provide an independent institution that could serve the community with objective advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy applications. The Colorado Energy Science Center has fulfilled this ambition through several hundred consumer workshops, dozens of educational classes in public schools and a widely distributed free magazine. Most services to the consumer and community are free of charge.

The Colorado Energy Science Center is broadening services through training programs for home builders to assure energy efficiency of new and remodeled houses.

To provide advice of such importance, frequently involving the potential of substantial investment, requires competent, unbiased, well informed, responsible and reliable information of the highest integrity. These are the principles that guide the activities of the Colorado Energy Science Center and staff.

My deepest congratulations to the Colorado Energy Science Center for your fine work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on May 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 350, rollcall 351, rollcall 352, rollcall 353, rollcall 354, rollcall 357, rollcall 359, rollcall 360, rollcall 361, rollcall 362, rollcall 363, rollcall 365, rollcall 366.

I would have voted "nay" on the following: rollcall 355, rollcall 356, rollcall 358, rollcall 364.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 379. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on June 4, 2008:

On ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1234, providing for consideration of H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities (Rollcall vote No. 370), I would have voted "nay."

On agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1234, providing for consideration of H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 371), I would have voted "nay."

On the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 1343, the Health Centers Renewal Act of 2007 (Rollcall vote No. 372), I would have voted "aye."

On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5669, the Poison Center Support, Enhancement, and Awareness Act of 2008 (Rollcall vote No. 373), I would have voted "aye."

On agreeing to the Kildee Amendment to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 374), I would have voted "nay."

On agreeing to the Ehlers Amendment to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 375), I would have voted "aye."

On agreeing to the Welch Amendment to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 376), I would have voted "aye."

On agreeing to the Matheson of Utah Amendment to H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 377), I would have voted "nay."

On the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 378), I would have voted "aye."

On Passage of H.R. 3021, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Rollcall vote No. 379), I would have voted "nay."

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST DAVID
LEE LEIMBACH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on May 25, Specialist David Lee Leimbach of Taylors, South Carolina, was killed while serving in Afghanistan. Specialist Leimbach had been in Afghanistan with my former unit, the 218th Brigade Combat Team of the South Carolina Army National Guard. The 218th recently returned home after a year of training police and army forces, but Leimbach volunteered to stay in Afghanistan with the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry of the New York Army National Guard.

We honor the dedication exemplified by Specialist Leimbach. His willingness to remain

in a combat zone, to continue the difficult but important work of protecting the Afghani people and helping to stabilize their country speaks to the highest qualities of character and courage. According to those who served with him, Specialist Leimbach was a soldier that would do all that was asked of him. Our Nation is safer and stronger because of the ultimate sacrifice made by Specialist Leimbach.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Specialist Leimbach's wife, Dawn, and all his family, friends, and fellow soldiers of the 218th during this difficult time. Specialist Leimbach's life and sacrifice are a testament to the strength and selfless dedication he and his fellow soldiers have for the defense of liberty. He has made a difference protecting American families by defeating terrorists overseas. Our troops are helping the people of Afghanistan build an effective government and robust economy which will deny terrorists safe havens from which to murder Americans as devised on September 11, 2001.

We will forever be grateful for the courage and dedication of Specialist David Lee Leimbach and his family.

THE INVESTING IN CLIMATE ACTION AND PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 6186)

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced, H.R. 6186, the "Investing in Climate Action and Protection Act," or "iCAP Act." I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the following subtitle-by-subtitle summary of the bill:

TITLE I—CAPPING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

SECTION 101. AMENDMENT TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Section 101 of the bill adds a new Title VII to the Clean Air Act, the subtitles of which are summarized below.

Subtitle A: Tracking Emissions

Subtitle A establishes a process through which EPA may designate new greenhouse gases and directs EPA to determine the quantity of each greenhouse gas that makes the same contribution to global warming as one metric ton of carbon dioxide. EPA is also directed to establish a national greenhouse gas registry.

Subtitle B: Reducing Emissions

Subtitle B directs EPA to establish a separate quantity of emission allowances for each calendar year from 2012 through 2050. The bill covers emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃)—plus any other anthropogenic gas that EPA designates as a greenhouse gas. Each emission allowance is equal to one metric ton CO₂—equivalent—the quantity of a greenhouse gas that makes the same contribution to global warming as one metric ton of CO₂. The emissions "cap" will cover 87 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The cap reduces covered emissions to 2005 levels by 2012, to 20 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and 85 percent below 2005 levels in 2050.

The bill requires the owner or operator of each "covered entity," at the end of each

calendar year from 2012 through 2050, to submit to EPA one emission allowance for each metric ton CO₂-equivalent of greenhouse gases that it emitted or that was contained in the fuels or chemicals it put into commerce that year. Covered entities include: (1) electric power and industrial facilities; (2) entities that produce or import petroleum- or coal-based liquid or gaseous fuels; (3) entities that produce or import HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, or NF₃; (4) natural gas local distribution companies; and (5) geological carbon sequestration sites. Entities that do not meet a 10,000 CO₂-equivalent threshold will not be required to submit allowances. HFC producers will not be required to submit allowances until 2020 in order to ensure success in meeting Montreal Protocol targets and to allow HFC substitutes to come to market.

A covered entity may submit domestic offset credits approved by EPA under subtitle E in lieu of emission allowances to satisfy up to 15 percent of its compliance requirement. A covered entity may also submit international emission allowances or offset credits approved by EPA under subtitle F to satisfy up to 15 percent of its compliance requirement. A covered entity may also submit destruction credits—issued by EPA to entities that convert a greenhouse gas (other than methane) to a gas with a lower global warming potential—in lieu of emission allowances.

Subtitle C: Distribution of Allowances

Subtitle C directs EPA to auction virtually all of the emission allowances each year, beginning with 94 percent auction from 2012–2019 and transitioning to 100 percent auction in 2020. Six percent of allowances from 2012 through 2019 will be distributed to U.S. manufacturers of trade-exposed primary goods (such as iron and steel, cement, aluminum, bulk glass, and paper) as a transitional measure to avoid shifting production abroad.

Auction proceeds will be used for a variety of public benefit purposes. Up to 0.5 percent of proceeds will be used to cover the costs of EPA and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission administration of the bill. Fifty million dollars per year will be dedicated to climate change education programs and centers for excellence established under Subtitle H of Title III. All remaining proceeds will be divided among 10 funds that will support the programs described in Title III and Title IV of the bill.

Subtitle D: Trading, Banking, and Borrowing

Subtitle D establishes rules for the trading, banking, and borrowing of emission allowances. Anyone may buy, sell, or transfer emission allowances, or submit them to EPA for retirement. Unlimited “banking” of allowances for future use is permitted. A covered entity may also borrow allowances from EPA (to be drawn from the emissions budget for future years) to meet up to 15 percent of its annual compliance obligation, but an allowance “loan” must be repaid within 5 years with 10 percent annual interest.

Subtitle E: Offsets

Subtitle E establishes a program to issue offset credits to entities that carry out projects in the United States that achieve real, verifiable, additional, permanent, and enforceable reductions in emissions or increases in storage of carbon in plants and soils. Four types of projects will be eligible to receive offset credits: (1) reductions in (outside-the-cap) greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas systems; (2) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from livestock operations; (3) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines; and (4) increases in biological carbon sequestration through afforestation and reforestation. Activities covered by the cap or by 3 performance

standards in subtitle H, or receiving support under Title III are not eligible to earn offset credits. Subtitle E directs EPA to establish rigorous monitoring, quantification, and accounting protocols and standards for approval of offset credits.

Subtitle F: International Emission Allowances and Offset Credits

Subtitle F directs EPA to establish regulations providing for approval of emission allowances from foreign greenhouse markets that impose mandatory absolute limits on emissions that are of comparable stringency to the program established by this bill.

Subtitle F also directs EPA to establish regulations providing for approval of categories and subcategories of international offset credits that meet certain criteria. Only credits generated from projects in countries that have taken action on climate change comparable to that of the United States, or in countries that have very low emissions or are among the least developed of developing countries, are eligible for use under this title.

Subtitle G: Global Effort to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Subtitle G directs the President to determine whether each foreign country has taken action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that is “comparable” to that of the United States, taking into account the level of economic development of each country. If, by 2020, any country has not taken “comparable” action, the President is authorized to require importers of trade-exposed primary goods (e.g., iron and steel, cement, aluminum, bulk glass, and paper) from those countries to purchase special “international reserve allowances” to account for the greenhouse gas emissions from the production of the goods. Least-developed countries and countries with low greenhouse gas emissions will be exempt from this requirement.

Subtitle H: Standards for Coal-Fired Power Plants and Non-Covered Facilities

Subtitle H directs EPA to promulgate performance standards for certain sources not included under the cap—such as coal mines, landfills, wastewater treatment operations, and large animal feeding operations—that emit at least 10,000 metric tons CO₂-equivalent per year. These standards will require such sources to apply best available control technologies or practices.

Subtitle H also establishes performance standards requiring any new coal-fired power plant on which construction begins after January 1, 2009, to achieve capture and geological sequestration of 85 percent of their CO₂ emissions within a defined time frame.

SECTION 102: CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

Section 102 of the Act amends sections 113, 114, and 307 of the Clean Air Act to make the Act's existing mechanisms for enforcement, inspections, administrative process, and judicial review applicable to the new Title VII of the Act.

SECTION 103: COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES FOR HYDROFLUOROCARBONS

To ensure proper use and disposal of HFCs and other fluorinated gases used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances, this section amends sections 608 and 609 of the Clean Air Act to extend to these substances the requirements of the Clean Air Act that already apply to the sale, use, and disposal of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

SECTION 104: WAIVER OF PREEMPTION FOR CALIFORNIA STANDARDS FOR VEHICLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section overrides EPA's December 2007 denial of California's petition for a waiver of preemption under the Clean Air Act of its greenhouse gas emissions standards for vehicles.

SECTION 105: LOW-CARBON FUEL STANDARD

This section amends section 211 of the Clean Air Act to establish a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). The LCFS establishes a market-based system to incentivize reductions in the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and use of transportation fuels. The LCFS is integrated with the current Renewable Fuel Standard.

TITLE II—CARBON MARKET OVERSIGHT

Title II creates a new Office of Carbon Market Oversight (“OCMO”) within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is charged with ensuring transparency, fairness, and stability in the market for emission allowances, offset credits, and derivatives thereof (collectively referred to as “regulated instruments”). The OCMO will establish rules requiring registration of (1) self-regulating “registered carbon trading facilities” on which regulated instruments are traded, (2) “carbon clearing organizations” that provide clearing services to trading facilities, and (3) brokers and dealers trading in regulated instruments.

Trading of regulated instruments generally will be limited to registered exchanges, except that large institutions and high net-worth individuals are permitted to trade regulated derivatives off-exchange. To ensure market transparency and stability, the OCMO will establish regulations providing for reporting of trading activity by large traders in regulated instruments and may adopt position limits or position accountability requirements. Title II establishes rules against fraud and market manipulation, enforceable through administrative penalties, civil enforcement suits, or criminal prosecution. Finally, the OCMO will provide quarterly reports to Congress on the functioning of the carbon market and its effects on the U.S. economy.

TITLE III—INVESTING IN AMERICA'S LOW-CARBON FUTURE

Subtitle A: Climate Trust Tax Credits and Rebates

Under Subtitle A, an estimated \$4.3 trillion (55 to 58.5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used for refundable tax credits and rebates for middle- and low-income households, to compensate for any increase in energy costs resulting from the bill. Tax credits will be used to reach middle-income wage earners and senior citizens, and cash rebates will be used to reach low-income households. Households earning under \$110,000 will be eligible, and virtually all costs from climate regulation will be covered for households earning under \$70,000.

Subtitle B: Low-Carbon Technology Fund

Under Subtitle B, an estimated \$963 billion (12.5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to fund low-carbon energy technology programs administered by the Department of Energy. These include existing RD&D programs for renewable electricity generation, carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), electric transmission and distribution efficiency, cellulosic ethanol, low-emission vehicles, building and industrial efficiency, energy storage technologies, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy. Subtitle B also establishes new programs to promote the deployment of large-scale and distributed renewable energy generation and to provide cost-sharing grants to cover the incremental costs of implementing CCS technology at coal-fired power plants that commence construction before 2020.

Subtitle C: National Energy Efficiency Fund

Under Subtitle C, an estimated \$963 billion (12.5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used

to fund an array of efficiency programs. These include: (1) a program to award incentive payments to States based on the level of energy savings each State achieves annually through consumer efficiency programs; (2) programs to award grants to States that implement building efficiency and recycling policies; (3) funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income persons and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and (4) grants to support State and local mass transit and “smart growth” projects to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

Subtitle D: Agriculture and Forestry Carbon Fund

Under Subtitle D, an estimated \$378 billion (4.5 to 5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to fund a program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, to support projects by U.S. farmers and foresters that increase biological sequestration of carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved agricultural soil management and forest management practices. USDA is also directed to undertake a supporting program of research, education, and outreach.

Subtitle E: Green Jobs Training and Worker Transition Assistance

Under Subtitle E, an estimated \$147 billion (1.5 to 2 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to fund the green jobs training programs established under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and a program, administered by the Department of Labor, which will provide training, income support, and tax credits for health care insurance for up to two years to any workers affected by the transition to a new low-carbon economy.

Subtitle F: National Climate Change Adaptation Program

Under Subtitle F, an estimated \$185 billion (2 to 2.5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to support a comprehensive program to increase America’s resilience to the impacts of climate change. Under this program, NOAA will periodically assess America’s vulnerability to such impacts and provide assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal decision makers in developing adaptation strategies. Subtitle F directs federal agencies to develop and implement plans to address climate change impacts within their jurisdictions and provides funding for State, local, and tribal government projects to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Subtitle G: Natural Resource Conservation Fund

Under Subtitle G, an estimated \$147 billion (1.5 to 2 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to support measures, implemented by federal land and natural resource management agencies, the States, and Indian tribes to protect U.S. natural resources, wildlife, and fisheries against adverse impacts from climate change.

Subtitle H: Climate Change Education and Centers for Excellence

Under Subtitle H, an estimated \$2 billion (\$50 million per year) will be used to provide support, through the National Science Foundation and EPA, for the development and implementation of climate change education programs and to provide cost-sharing grants supporting the establishment, at colleges, universities, and non-profit organizations, of national centers for excellence on climate change science, technology, and policy.

TITLE IV—ENCOURAGING GLOBAL ACTION

Subtitle A: International Forest Protection Fund

Under Subtitle A, an estimated \$147 billion (1.5 to 2 percent of auction proceeds) will be

used to support policies in qualifying developing countries that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation or increase carbon sequestration through restoration of forests and degraded lands, afforestation, and improved forest management. Countries that initially do not qualify are eligible for capacity-building grants to prepare them for participation.

Subtitle B: International Clean Technology Fund

Under Subtitle B, an estimated \$301 billion (3.5 to 4 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to provide support for the adoption of clean energy and efficiency technologies by major-emitting developing countries that the President certifies as having taken “comparable action” to combat climate change, taking into account the country’s level of economic development.

Subtitle C: International Climate Change Adaptation Fund

Under Subtitle C, an estimated \$185 billion (2 to 2.5 percent of auction proceeds) will be used to support an international adaptation program, to be administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, which will fund projects to assist the most vulnerable developing countries in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

TITLE V—LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GEOLOGICAL SEQUESTRATION OF CARBON DIOXIDE

Title V amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to require EPA to develop comprehensive regulatory standards for underground injection of carbon dioxide, and directs EPA to establish a task force charged with providing Congress with recommendations regarding the legal framework to govern liability with respect to closed geological storage sites.

TITLE VI—BUILDING EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Title VI incorporates provisions from the House-passed version of the energy bill from 2007, requiring the Department of Energy to develop model building efficiency codes that States are required to adopt and enforce. States that do so become eligible for funding from the National Energy Efficiency Fund (described in subtitle C of Title III).

TITLE VII—REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Title VII establishes a comprehensive framework for periodic review and reports to Congress, by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and relevant federal agencies, of all major aspects of the bill. Every five years, an interagency body will make recommendations to the President, and the President will in turn make recommendations to Congress, on changes to the framework established by the bill. Title VII also provides for expedited Congressional consideration of a presidential recommendation to tighten the bill’s emissions cap if the NAS’s findings indicate such action is necessary.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF THE REV. EARL ABEL POST OFFICE NAMING BILL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, as Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri and in my career as a Methodist minister, I had the distinct honor

of getting to know many of the dedicated community leaders whose sole purpose for being involved was to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. One of the best and most beloved of these leaders was the Reverend Earl Abel.

Reverend Abel was born on September 12, 1930. He attended the University of Kansas and went on to receive his Doctor of Divinity Degree from Western Baptist Bible College. Reverend Abel worked as a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier until he organized the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church in 1959.

Under Reverend Abel’s leadership, what started out as a modest church of 11 members grew into a thriving ministry, touching the lives of thousands of community members across Kansas City, Missouri. While he was pastor, Palestine Church built two senior citizens residences, a Senior Activity Center, and a church camp for both youth and adults. Even as he worked tirelessly to reach out through these programs, Reverend Abel’s involvement in the community did not end with his efforts at Palestine Church. Reverend Abel served as Chaplain for the Kansas City Police Department, President of the Baptist Ministers Union, member of the Kansas City Council on Crime Prevention, and authored a book entitled *If a Church is to Grow*. In 1999, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Reverend Abel to the Appellate Judicial Commission.

On May 17, 2005, Reverend Abel passed away after 46 years of service at Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ and more than 48 years as a minister of God.

Today I rise to offer a bill to honor this man by naming a post office facility in Kansas City after him. Given his early career as a mail carrier, it is only fitting for the location at 1700 Cleveland Avenue, in the heart of Kansas City, to carry his name. It is my hope that this small gesture helps ensure that the legacy of Reverend Abel lives on. A companion bill in the Senate will be filed today by Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL, herself a tireless public servant and a friend of Reverend Abel.

I hope my fellow colleagues will join me in recognizing Reverend Earl Abel for his loving ministry and limitless dedication to serving the Kansas City, Missouri community. I thank the Chair and ask that the full text of the bill, and these remarks, be inserted into the RECORD at the appropriate place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, because of an important event in my district, I was not present for the vote on H. Res. 923. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the requirements of the Republican

Conference of the House, I am submitting for the RECORD the following information regarding an earmark I requested, which was included in the reported version of H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act":

Requesting Member: Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER (CA-46).

Bill Number: H.R. 5658, the "Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act."

Account: Ap,A Aircraft Procurement, Army; 020 Utility Helicopter Mods.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army National Guard Readiness Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

Description of Request: Provide \$5 million for helicopter modernization. The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the National Guard. It provides units in every State with a multi-mission aircraft for search & rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. The Army National Guard (ARNG) is authorized 782 Black Hawk aircraft, but is short of this authorization by almost 100 aircraft. This shortage requires ARNG units to loan or transfer Black Hawks in support deployments, training or State missions, resulting in a higher usage rate of available airframes. Additionally, more than 500 of the 782 National Guard aircraft are older UH-60A models, with an average age of approximately 25 years. The Army is procuring over 1,200 UH-60M Black Hawks for utility, special operations and MEDEVAC missions to replace the aging UH-60A from operational units by 2016. The Army acquired 33 UH-60M Black Hawks by the end of FY07, and from FY09 to FY13, the Army plans to procure an additional 300 UH-60M Black Hawks (70 of those aircraft are programmed for ARNG units). However, without an accelerated procurement of the UH-60M, the Army National Guard will be operating more than 400 UH-60A helicopters beyond 2020. The ARNG and the Active Army developed a program to support the continued modernization of the ARNG Black Hawk fleet. Unfortunately, this program is not fully funded. The ARNG plan is to accelerate the fielding of UH-60M Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. Although the Active Army has programmed UH-60A recapitalization for the ARNG with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds, which includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements and the replacement of components, the UH-60A to L upgrade is not funded. The UH-60L Black Hawk is more economical to operate and has 1,000 lbs. of additional lift than the UH-60A. The desired rate of UH-60A to L upgrades is 38 per year. Funding the UH-60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet, and assure that ARNG units are ready, deployable, and available to protect our national interests both abroad and at home. This ARNG aviation initiative has been identified by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) as FY09 "Essential 10—Top 25" unfunded priorities.

HONORING MAYOR PAUL GATTUSO, RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE WEST CENTRAL MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Gattuso, the Mayor of the Village of Westchester and an outstanding citizen of Illinois' Third Congressional District, for his recent appointment as President of the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) in west suburban Cook County, Illinois. Throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Gattuso has served his community with excellence and intelligence and I am pleased to recognize this most recent of his many accomplishments.

Mayor Gattuso has a longstanding tradition of service to his community. He has served with distinction as the Mayor of Westchester since 2005. Prior to his election, he spent 10 years as a Village Trustee. He also supports a variety of local organizations, such as the Kiwanis Club and the Westchester Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his dedicated service to the community, Mayor Gattuso is a successful businessman. He has owned and operated a thriving restaurant, Paul's Pizza and Hot Dogs, in Westchester for over 20 years. The restaurant, a favorite among residents, proudly sponsors numerous youth and athletic organizations.

The West Central Municipal Conference is a membership-supported association representing 36 municipalities and one township within west suburban Cook County. As President of the WCMC, Mayor Gattuso will use his passion for helping people to assist the WCMC in serving the needs of its various communities and providing valuable services to the citizens who work and live in the region. I am confident that under his leadership the WCMC will continue to be a successful council of governments.

Mayor Gattuso is also a proud husband and father. His son is studying pre-law at Marquette University, while his daughter has a wonderful career in design.

It is my great privilege to recognize Paul Gattuso as he begins his term as President of West Central Municipal Conference. His experience, knowledge, and commitment to the community will undoubtedly contribute greatly to a successful tenure.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BRETT RANKERT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Brett Rankert for his 25 years of service to the Nation as a member of the United States Army. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to CSM Rankert and his family the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for his service on this occasion of his retirement.

I have had the great personal pleasure of meeting CSM Rankert during his tour of duty as the Presidio of Monterey Command Sergeant Major. I can say without reservation that his performance in this position epitomizes the very best of what military service should be—smart, professional, selfless, and humane. He has truly been an ambassador for the uniformed services in general, and the Army in particular. My office has repeatedly worked with CSM Rankert to help resolve problems ranging from individual soldier concerns to the frustrations of several elderly Presidio neighbors over the 'just outside the gate' smoking habits of certain DLI students. In every instance of which I am aware, CSM Rankert has helped to transform a situation from conflict to resolution with grace, certainty, and a smile.

CSM Rankert is also a warrior—a soldier's soldier. A native of South Bend, Indiana, he first enlisted into the Army in 1983. CSM Rankert's leadership qualities, particularly his attention to the soldiers in his care, led to a succession of promotions and leadership positions, including Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, and ultimately Command Sergeant Major. His assignments included the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion in support of the 82nd Airborne Division; the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion in support of the 2nd Infantry Division; and the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion serving as the Bravo Company First Sergeant. Finally, I should note that CSM Rankert never scored below a perfect 300 on his annual physical fitness test.

His military education included the Army Airborne Course, Basic Instructor Training Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeants Course, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Command Sergeants Major Designee Course, and the Garrison Sergeants Major Course. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College, New York, and an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Intelligence Operations. CSM Rankert's Awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Army Parachutist Badge, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd OLC), Army Commendation Medal (2nd OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4th OLC), Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (4th Award), NATO Medal.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to emphasize the importance of military families in the ultimate success of our military's mission. CSM Rankert's past and future success are very much built on the support and partnership of his wife Sharon and son Justin. I want to thank them for their public service and wish the Rankert family good luck and God's speed in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DENNIS LEMASTERS II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dennis Lemasters II of Platte City, Missouri. Dennis is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1028, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dennis has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dennis has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dennis Lemasters II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN SUPPORT OF WILMINGTON,
NORTH CAROLINA BEING RECOGNIZED AS "AMERICA'S WORLD
WAR II CITY"

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the City of Wilmington, North Carolina, for its remarkable contributions to the U.S. war efforts during World War II. Its rich World War II legacy reminds us not only of its unique and pivotal role in the war, but also of the honorable dedication of all North Carolinians during our Nation's time of need. As a reflection of its unique and pivotal role, and its deep and unmatched sacrifice, I stand to proclaim that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City." In fact, both the New Hanover County Commissioner and City Council have proclaimed it so!

During World War II, Wilmington was the country's unique wartime boomtown, aptly and officially named "The Defense Capital of the State." The once-quiet seaside city, geographically isolated for decades, suddenly found itself an exploding center for military life and defense production.

Wilmington's wartime efforts were extensive and honorable. Wilmington based and trained all five military services—the Air Force at the Wilmington Airport, the Army at Camp Davis and Fort Fisher, the Navy at Fort Caswell, the Coast Guard at Wrightsville Beach, and the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, the state's largest employer at that time, constructed 243 cargo vessels with which to provide goods and equipment to our soldiers. Additionally, Wilmington provided the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad headquarters, three housing camps for German prisoners of war, a major training base for P-47 fighters, defense industries producing goods and equipment, a British patrol base, and a shipping Lend Lease supplies to the Allies.

Wilmington's most important contribution by far, though, was its dispatch of thousands of its sons and daughters to fight the enemy. These New Hanover County men and women served in uniform, fighting on land, sea, and air as Navy frogmen, P-51 fighter aces, Tuskegee Airmen, submarine skippers, bomber pilots, Marine riflemen, Army artillerymen, physicians and nurses, and volunteers of all sorts. Tragically, 248 Wilmington men bravely lost their lives as a result of their courageous

efforts to defend America. Two New Hanover High School graduates received the Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous others received high decorations for valor including Navy Crosses, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Furthermore, Wilmington's strategic position made it vulnerable to enemy attack by German U-boats, which marauded shipping off our beaches. In July 1943 a U-boat fired at the Ethel-Dow chemical plant in Wilmington, perhaps the only German attack on America. Wilmington endured this attack, as well as constant civilian defense restrictions and air raid drills, including black-outs and dim-outs. The city's population more than doubled with the influx of military personnel, forcing locals to cope with strain on housing and schools, transportation, medical and social services, law enforcement, and food supply.

Madam Speaker, Wilmingtonians sacrificed in every imaginable way when our nation needed them during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of Wilmington's contributions to the U.S. war effort during World War II. Now, in the spirit of that appreciation, let it be known that Wilmington, North Carolina, should be recognized as "America's World War II City."

DESCUBRIENDO LA LECTURA AND READING RECOVERY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to rise today to acknowledge the achievements of Descubriendo la Lectura and Reading Recovery in teaching struggling first grade students to read and write in the 22nd House district of Texas.

In April I visited Fort Bend Independent School District to observe an early reading intervention for bilingual children whose initial literacy learning is in Spanish. It is called Descubriendo la Lectura—DLL for short. The goal of DLL is to reduce the number first-grade children who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write and to reduce the cost of those learners to educational systems. DLL is a reconstruction of Reading Recovery for Spanish-speaking children and provides short-term, one-to-one tutoring with a specially trained teacher.

The results in my district are impressive, beginning with the student I met the day of my visit. Jose began his DLL lessons in January reading on a text level of 1, which means he could read a simple book with a single line, supported by single illustrations. He could recognize his own name and write very few other words.

On the day of my visit he was reading at a text level of 12, which means he could read a book with 4–8 lines of text per page. He is able to read books with more challenging ideas, vocabulary and longer sentences. He is able to interpret and understand ideas and characters through discussions with the DLL teacher.

In the Fort Bend Independent School District, 70 percent of the students receiving a full series of DLL lessons were reading on or above grade level by the end of first grade last

year. Throughout Texas, the U.S., and Department of Defense schools around the world, three-quarters of children receiving a full series of DLL or Reading Recovery lessons are reading and writing at grade level standard by the end of first grade. These results are remarkable, considering these children began at the bottom of their class for reading and writing—usually the lowest 10–20 percent. I commend the teachers, administrators, and students of Fort Bend ISD for their commitment to assuring literacy for all children.

FIRSTBANK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize FirstBank for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Customer Service Award.

FirstBank is a locally owned banking organization headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado and for over 40 years FirstBank has been dedicated to a high standard of customer service.

FirstBank is a full service bank with local personnel, local decisions and outstanding customer service. The employees of FirstBank are available to customers 24 hours a day with fast and friendly customer service. Due to the high standard of customer care, FirstBank has become the premier leader in the banking industry in Colorado.

My deepest congratulations to FirstBank on your continued success and outstanding commitment to the customers you serve.

HONORING WALTER JONES III OF MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter Jones III—decorated Vietnam War hero, active member of the Civil Rights Movement, and dedicated servant to the community of Kalamazoo, MI.

During the Vietnam War, Walter served as a paratrooper in the United States Army from 1965 to 1968. He received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze stars during his combat time and fought bravely in many battles, including the Battle of DakTo—a major victory over the North Vietnamese.

Perhaps even more impressive than Walter's war history, is his tireless work for the Civil Rights Movement. When he was a young man of 14 years, Walter became the vice president of the local NAACP Youth Council in Kalamazoo, and has been fighting for equal rights for all races ever since.

With the combination of Walter's bravery in the Vietnam War and his leadership in the Kalamazoo community, he has been chosen to receive the 2008 Veteran of the Year Award at the Metropolitan Kalamazoo branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. I thank Walter Jones for his lifelong commitment to the betterment of our country, and in particular, for

his steadfast service to the Kalamazoo community.

RECOGNIZING THE FEDERATION OF HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATORS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to recognize The Federation of Hellenic American Educators and Cultural Associations who today held a wonderful and historic event in the Capitol entitled, "The Dynamics of the Hellenic Language." Attendees included His Excellency Ambassador Alexandros Mallias; Carolos Gadis, Minister-Deputy Chief of Mission; Stella Kokolis, President, SAE USE Region Educational Committee; Christos Polymeropoulos; Vassilis Polymeropoulos; Maria Gadis; and students from the Greek School of Plato in Brooklyn instructed by Eleftheria Ikouta and Despina Hotzoglou.

I want to acknowledge the honorees receiving the "Capitol 2008 Awards for Promoting Hellenic Language and Culture":

The Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ (D-NJ), The Honorable OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), Dr. Anagnostis Agelarakis, Professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Angela Kalmoukos, Teacher, Lowell, Massachusetts, George Pumakis, founder of "Athenian Academy", Charter School Dr. James E. Alatis, Dean Emeritus, School of Languages and Linguistics, Theodore Spyropoulos, S.A.E. U.S.A. Coordinator, Anna Efstathiou Tziropoulou, Author-Professor of Historical Greek Literature, Alpine University, Zurich, Maria Makedon, Director, First Archdiocesan District, Department of Education, Antonis Diamataris, Publisher, "National Herald", and Dimitris Kastanas, President & Producer, NGTV.

Professor John Antonopoulos, University of Staten Island, Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, Ph.D., President, Hellenic Educators Association, NJ, Nina Gatzoulis, Professor of Modern Greek, University of New Hampshire, Helene Georgopoulou, Teacher, Peirakon School, Chicago, Eleftheria Ikouta, Principal, Plato School, Brooklyn, Athena Krommydas, Principal, The William Spyropoulos Day School, Flushing, Dr. George Kafkoulis, Chairman, Co-Founder & President of the Archimedean Academy, Timoleon Kokkinos, St. Demetrius Astoria, Principal (Afternoon School), and Dr. John Kotsaridis, Director, Education Department, Stavropegial Monastery.

Dr. George Melikokis, Principal, St. Demetrios School, Jamaica, Dr. Aristotle Michopoulos, Director of Greek Studies, Hellenic College, Marina Moustakas, Founding President, Hellenic Heritage Institute, Dr. Peter Nanopoulos, Director of Greek Education and Culture, Metropolis of San Francisco, Nikos Nikolidakis, Consul for Educational Affairs in USA, Dimitri S. Pallas (MD), Anna Stavroula Panas, St. Basil's Academy Teachers College Alumnae Association, Elias Pantelides, Direc-

tor of Academy of Aristotle, St. George, Media, PA, Eleftherios Peroulas, Founder of Socrates Academy, NC, and Helen Petropoulou, St. George, Maryland.

Sophia Tsagalis, St. Catherine School, Virginia, Catherine Tsounis, Adjunct Professor, St. John's University, Dr. Peter Yiannos, President, Tri-State American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC), Wilmington, DE Philadelphia Association, Dimitris Fillos, Reporter, Cosmos FM, Dimitris Georgakopoulos, Publisher, Hellenic Voice, Theodore Kalmoukos, Reporter, National Herald, Stavros Marmarinos, Reporter, National Herald, Elias Neofyrides, Macedonia TV, Dimitrios Tsakas, National Herald, Apostolos Zoupaniotis, Publisher, "Greek News", and Panikos Panayiotou, NGTV.

I was pleased to have celebrated the Hellenic language today with my many friends in the Greek-American community. I look forward to our continued friendship and collaboration on the many issues important to the United States and Greece.

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD two newspaper articles illustrating the dire financial state the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is in at the present moment. The first article is published in the New York Daily News by Frank Lombardi entitled: Eye Rent Spike, Shutdowns. The article affirms that NYCHA plans a rent increase for about 40,000 residents in order to reduce their budget deficit. NYCHA also plans to close all 280 community, youth, and senior centers in order to save money.

The second article is published by the New York Times by Manny Fernandez entitled: Housing Cuts Are Proposed To Help Close Budget Gap. This article declares that NYCHA is making some of the steepest cuts in spending and personnel to reduce their shortfall in their operating budget.

Today, the agency is looking at a \$170 million deficit for 2008, which has halted more than 100 capital projects. But what is more staggering is that over 400,000 residents in 2,600 apartment buildings will be adversely affected by NYCHA's recent decisions. Many of these residents represent our nation's two most vulnerable demographics: senior citizens and youths. So eliminating all of the centers will result in losing many of the following programs that is essential to the growth, development, and progress for many living in public housing: community, educational and recreational programs; job readiness and training initiatives; day care and Head Start; sports, photography, painting, literacy classes and general education courses; computer training, arts and crafts, childcare feeding; and lunch, and senior companion initiatives.

We must ensure that tenants do not become helpless victims of the recent state of financial affairs. I encourage my colleagues to support enhancing resources that can mitigate the struggles many public housing agencies such as the New York City Public Housing Authority is facing right now.

[From the New York Daily News, May 30, 2008]

EYE RENT SPIKE, SHUTDOWNS

(By Frank Lombardi)

A brutal rent hike looms for 40,000 families living in subsidized city apartments as Housing Authority officials sprung a plan Thursday to close a gaping budget hole.

The Draconian move, which includes closing all 280 community, youth and senior centers, was spelled out at a City Council hearing on the authority's \$195.3 million deficit, which is also projected for the next four years. "This is real. I'm going to have to be able to manage within our means," said Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez after the hearing. "So unless there's some relief that comes from some level of government I'm going to have to move forward with these actions." They include:

A second rent hike for some 40,000 families whose earnings require them to pay higher rents. Most tenants of the authority's 181,000 apartments pay a fixed rent capped at one-third of their income. The higher earners were hit two years ago with a 10% to 40% hike depending on income and now face hikes of 5% to 15%, to raise \$45 million a year, beginning next year.

Closing all of the Housing Authority's more than 100 senior centers and 158 youth and community centers. That would cause the layoff or retirement of 1,500 workers—for annual savings of \$60 million.

Diverting \$75 million from the construction budget to cover operating expenses.

Selling or renting authority property to private developers for market-rent uses. Details are still being formulated.

The threatened actions will generate "outrage" among tenants, said Lisa Burriss, an organizer for the Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side.

[From the New York Times, May 30, 2008]

HOUSING CUTS ARE PROPOSED TO HELP CLOSE BUDGET GAP

(By Manny Fernandez)

The chairman of the New York City Housing Authority painted a bleak financial picture of the agency at a City Council hearing on Thursday, saying that without increased government aid the authority would raise rents for some tenants and eliminate hundreds of community centers and resident programs.

The agency—the largest public housing authority in the United States, with 406,000 residents in 2,600 buildings—has made deep cuts in its spending and its work force in recent years to contend with ever-growing budget gaps.

But the steps outlined on Thursday by the agency's chairman, Tino Hernandez, and its general manager, Douglas Apple, were some of the most severe cutbacks the agency has proposed as it sought to close a \$195 million deficit in its operating budget this year. Toward the end of the housing officials' testimony before several committees, about two dozen tenant activists stood up in the Council chambers at City Hall and chanted, "Put residents first!" as they marched out.

Staffs from the two sides will meet in the coming days to begin discussing the authority's needs. Although the city and the state do not provide annual operating assistance to the authority, they have provided one-time allocations to help close shortfalls. Most recently, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the Council provided the agency with \$120 million in operating aid in 2006.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple said the rent increases would be similar to the ones they announced in 2006, when the Housing Authority raised the rents paid by its highest-income households. The new increases of 5 to 15 percent for those same tenants would generate an estimated \$35 million to \$45 million

in additional revenue, Mr. Apple said. The increases would be phased in starting next year, pending approval from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple also said that assuming no new governmental financing became available in coming months, they were planning to eliminate all of the agency's community-based programs, including 94 community centers and 147 senior centers operated by the agency or the city's Department for the Aging in public housing.

In addition, scores of programs that serve youth and provide tenants with job training and arts and athletics activities, among other things, would end. The plan, which Mr. Apple and Mr. Hernandez said would save the agency \$68 million annually, would shutter all of the community and senior centers in the Housing Authority's 343 developments. It has already started the process, announcing in February that 19 "underutilized" community centers would close.

"As chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, I am here to tell you today that the future of public housing is at stake," Mr. Hernandez told council members. He added that because city, state and federal budgets did not include new financing for the agency, "we have no choice but to begin to implement the actions that I have described."

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple also spoke about continuing efforts to sell or lease parking lots and vacant land for market-rate development.

Council members said they were stunned by the agency's dire financial situation, and though they vowed to help preserve public housing, a few members expressed disappointment at plans to raise rents and close community and senior centers.

Senior citizens in particular are vulnerable to being relegated "to the dark ages, when we didn't have any programs at all," said Councilman James Vacca, of the Bronx, adding, "I hope you know that there's no one there to fill this gap should this occur."

The Housing Authority's operating budget for this year is \$2.8 billion. More than half of that money comes from subsidies from HUD.

The annual operational subsidy HUD has given to the Housing Authority has fluctuated in recent years, from \$747 million in 2001 to \$780 million in 2007.

But the gap between the money the Housing Authority was eligible for and the money it ultimately received has widened.

From 2001 to 2008, the Housing Authority lost a total of \$611 million in federal dollars, money it qualified for under a HUD spending formula but did not receive because of shortfalls in Congressional appropriations. Officials say that this year, the loss of that money means that for every federal dollar the agency needs to operate, it gets roughly 82 cents.

One hundred capital projects have been deferred or cut as the agency has used roughly \$370 million in capital financing to help balance its budget since 2002, and Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple said they will continue to do so. The Council speaker, Christine C. Quinn, told Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple that she found this practice troubling.

In an interview, Ms. Quinn said that council members want to help the agency stabilize its finances, but that a better long-term plan is needed that draws on city, state and federal governments. "All of us in city government are very troubled about the state of the Housing Authority's finances," she said.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIAM F. LAUBENSTEIN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor TSgt William F. Laubenstein's service to our country in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

On January 17, 1941 William Laubenstein enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a cadet at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. After completing flight instruction he was assigned as a Radio Operator/Gunner of a B-17 Flying Fortress with the 384th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force in England.

From October 14, 1943 to May 8, 1944, TSgt William Laubenstein flew 26 recorded missions during World War II over the Continental Europe. In April of 1944 the number of missions required to complete a tour had risen to 35; Bill had nine more missions left. On the 26th mission, May 8, 1944, Bill's B-17 referred to as "Little Barney" was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the crew were forced to bail. Over the course of the impact to the plane, Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was injured in his hip by flak.

From the fields of France, Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was taken to a German Prisoner of War camp located in Poland. Bill was a Prisoner of War from May 8, 1944 until May 8, 1945. After almost a year at the POW camp he endured a 90-day forced march sometimes referred to as The Black March, which covered approximately 1,000 miles across the Polish and German countryside. On May 1, 1945 Bill was released from the POW camp when the German guards abandoned the camp.

Technical Sergeant Laubenstein was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and the Honorable Lapel Button.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Technical Sergeant Laubenstein who has now been appropriately awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, the Prisoner of War Medal from May 8, 1944 to May 8 1945, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation for his commitment to defending our country and the sacrifices he has made on behalf of the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on June 4, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 374. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 374 "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN BARR DURING HIS TENURE AS AN EDITOR AND RE- PORTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Stephen Barr, noted columnist and journalist that paved the way for today's journalistic generation.

Throughout his career at the Washington Post, Stephen Barr has served as an anchor to both the columnist writing community and the avid readers of the newspaper. During his 20 years at the Washington Post, he has worked as an Editor and Reporter serving in the Metro News, Style National News, and the Column departments of the newspaper.

In May 2000, he was selected as the Federal Dairy Columnist after serving 7 years as a National Staff Writer covering Federal management and personnel issues, 'Reinventing Government,' the U.S. Postal Service, Veterans' Affairs, the Congressional Appropriations Process, and Government Technology challenges, including the widely known year 2000 computer glitch.

Steve Barr was born and raised in Nocona Texas, a 1967 graduate of Nocona High School and a 1971 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. He also served 2 years in the U.S. Army, including 1 year with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.

With deep appreciation and admiration for his continued service, I thank Mr. Stephen Barr and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM ANIMALS ANTI-CRUELTY ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, Mr. SHAYS and I are pleased to introduce today the Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act.

This bill would make it a Federal offense to, without justification, kill, mutilate, disfigure, torture or intentionally inflict pain or suffering upon an animal raised for food, or to fail to provide food, water and shelter.

By making these acts a Federal offense, this bill provides a powerful disincentive and punishment for unjustified or intentional cruelty. The ability to bring a Federal prosecution is a strong deterrent. Finally, this bill articulates a powerful message in expressing the national importance we place on the treatment of farm animals.

The Farm Animals Anti-Cruelty Act is a commonsense approach to combating animal cruelty on farms. It complements State anti-cruelty statutes and provides a national anti-cruelty standard in those States that do not currently provide standards.

This bill is just one step, but an important step, in addressing how our society treats

farm animals raised for food, and it reflects our core values of compassion, decency and mercy.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE PONTIAC VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation as they dedicate the Pontiac Veterans Memorial on June 7, 2008. This memorial is the culmination of countless hours of hardwork and dedication shown by the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation.

In 1998, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation started their memorial project by collecting the names of every Pontiac resident that had served our country since the Revolutionary War. Two years and over 3,800 names later, the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation was ready to design a memorial to honor these brave individuals. Understanding the importance of involving the community, the members asked students from the local schools to create designs for the memorial. The ultimate selection was designed by William Holland, a student at Notre Dame High School in Pontiac.

With a design in hand and a location overlooking veterans' burial plots, which was donated by the Perry Mount Cemetery, the corporation sought out funding for the memorial. The community heard their call and answered with an outpouring of support, from individual donors to group donations from organizations like the Disabled American Veterans of Pontiac, The Chrysler Foundation, and General Motors Corporation. The memorial stands as a living tribute bearing the names of everyone who has served this great country.

In addition to recognizing the tireless efforts of the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation, I would like to highlight the work of their president, Jack Bressler. A veteran himself, Jack spearheaded the project, and I commend him for the countless hours he has invested to turn this dream into a reality.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Corporation for all they have done to honor our brave and selfless veterans. I congratulate them as they dedicate this memorial and commend the entire community for all the support they have shown.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JASON BROWN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a Magnolia, Texas, native, SSG Jason Brown, who was killed in Iraq on April 17, 2008.

America was formed in the crucible of the Revolutionary War and hardened during the tragedy of the Civil War. We demonstrated our

willingness to carry the standard of freedom during World War II. During these, and numerous other times in America's history, our Nation's finest young men have answered the call and stepped forward to serve their Nation and protect the cause of liberty. Staff Sergeant Brown honored the sacrifice of those who answered the call before him by stepping forward in another time of national crisis; after the cowardly attacks of September 11th and at the dawn of the war in Iraq.

Just days after the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003, Sergeant Brown joined the Army and the next year earned one of the Army's most revered symbols: the Green Beret worn by members of the elite Special Forces. After enlisting in Magnolia and completing his training, Sergeant Brown was serving with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Sergeant Brown was on his second deployment to Iraq and had previously been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

I come forward to honor Sergeant Brown in the truest sense of the word. Men and women like Sergeant Brown are truly deserving of our profound esteem and recognition. Stories of their courage fortify us and inspire us to better ourselves, our communities and our country. We are reminded what it means to sincerely serve others and defend a truly noble cause: the cause of liberty and freedom. It is with faith in Almighty God that we are able to find solace and peace at a time when our collective heart breaks. The deep sadness I feel can be nothing compared to the grief that is felt by Sergeant Brown's daughter, Alyssa, his parents, James and Rosemary, and the friends and family of those who have died serving their Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places abroad. An emptiness has been created where Sergeant Brown existed for those who knew him and I know my words will do little to fill it; I can only offer my prayers and the sympathy of a grieving Nation. Sergeant Brown will be missed at holiday celebrations and will never have the chance to walk his little girl down the aisle, but I hope his family knows that they have the deepest respect and gratitude that a nation can offer.

With each soldier's life that is taken from us too early, we are renewed in our commitment to spreading the light of liberty to people and countries that have never witnessed it. The Gospel of Luke reminds us that, ". . . to whom much is given, from him much will be required." America has been given much and much continues to be required. America was unique in its founding and put forth the new idea that the state would serve as the insurer of individual liberty and freedom. We continue to espouse the very best ideas of our founding, with Sergeant Brown acting as the modern day champion of that cause by standing where few would and ultimately paying for that unflinching bravery with his life.

The reverence we have for all those who serve and, especially, for Sergeant Brown and all those men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom transcends political affiliation and ideological differences. We put down our partisan assaults and pause to pay tribute to the very best of our country. It is my distinct honor to represent our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast

Guardsmen in the greatest legislative body the world has ever known. Let us never forget that this body's existence was made possible by the sacrifice of men and women like Sergeant Brown and let our work here honor their memory and the memory of those who will fall tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I hope those in the Chamber and those watching at home will join me in offering our most heartfelt prayers for Sergeant Brown, his family and all those families who have lost a son, a father, a daughter, a mother, a best friend, a wife, or a husband in the cause of liberty. Let us always remember their courage and the courage of their comrades who remain in distant jungles or far-flung deserts across the globe. Let us never forget their sacrifice, nor those they leave behind.

GAMBRO BCT, INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gambro BCT, Inc., and the Gambro employees for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Community Service Award.

Gambro BCT is a frontrunner in the blood bank technology industry in Colorado, with advancements designed to improve results for the greater good of the community.

In addition, Gambro and its employees have quietly made an incredible difference for thousands of people through their volunteer blood drives. In 2007, they hosted a total of 12 drives and collected 424 units of blood, helping to save 1,272 lives. In 2008 they are scheduled to host 12 more drives with collections projected at 447 units. These services result in immeasurable benefits and are decidedly worthy of this prestigious award.

Companies such as Gambro BTC are imperative in communities across the United States, and recognition must be given to their dedicated employees as well. Congratulations on your fine work. I offer my strong encouragement to them to continue their dedicated and excellent efforts.

PUBLIC LAND COMMUNITIES TRANSITION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support.

The bill will reauthorize for four years the "Secure Rural Schools" program under which payments are made to certain counties in which national forest lands are located. Currently, the program is scheduled to expire at the end of this month.

This program is important for Colorado as well as other Western States. Last year, payments under the program to Colorado counties amounted to more than \$6.4 million, helping to

offset the costs of public schools, roads, and other needs of Colorado residents.

That amount may not be the same in the future, because the bill will revise the formula for distribution of payments so as to reflect the historical allocation of payments, the concentration of public land in a county, and the current economic condition of a recipient county. But Colorado will still benefit from the program.

I do regret that as it comes before the House today the bill does not include provisions dealing with another program of importance to Colorado's counties—the payments in lieu of taxes, or PILT, program. Under PILT, counties in Colorado received more than 17 million dollars last year—but would have received more if the full authorized amount had been appropriated.

As introduced, and as approved by the Natural Resources Committee, the bill would have provided for automatic payments under PILT at 80 percent of the authorized level in 2008, 90 percent in 2009, and 100 percent in 2010 and 2011. That would have meant that payments would not depend on annual appropriations.

I have worked for years to make full PILT payments automatic, so that our counties would be assured that they would receive the full amounts authorized—and I will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, some of our colleagues have indicated they will oppose this bill because of the inclusion of provisions to reform the “royalty relief” afforded to some companies engaged in development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

I think those provisions are sound, and deserve support, just as they did when the House approved them last year. They would ensure that the companies pay their fair share of royalties on flawed leases granted in 1998 and 1999. Specifically, companies not currently paying any royalties due to these flawed leases would have to pay new “Conservation of Resource Fees,” in order to be eligible for new Federal leases for drilling.

In 1998 and 1999, the Interior Department issued oil and gas leases for drilling offshore in the Gulf of Mexico that mistakenly failed to include “price thresholds,” which trigger a requirement for companies to pay royalties to the Federal Government when the price of oil and gas exceeds a certain level. As a result, the companies that got these leases are exempt from paying any royalties at all—and, according to a preliminary estimate by the Government Accountability Office, that could mean that the taxpayers will be shortchanged to the tune of some \$15 billion over the duration of the leases. This bill, like legislation approved in the House last year, corrects that mistake. I urge the bill's approval.

THE RETIREMENT OF PRINCIPAL ARLEN KRINKE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, this Sunday a beloved community leader in Elk River, Minnesota, will be retiring. Arlen Krinke has faithfully served as Principal of St. John

Lutheran School for 34 years, pouring his heart into the school and earning the profound admiration of people throughout the community.

Schools are the fertile ground where young minds are shaped, young hearts are filled with hope, and young dreams are given life. As generations of students can attest, Principal Krinke has made St. John Lutheran a place filled with hopes and dreams, and where mind, body and spirit are nurtured and fulfilled.

There are few greater services one can render then to serve the young. And Principal Arlen Krinke truly has a servant's heart. He has given his all to this school—and made a real and lasting impact on those who walked through its doors.

Most important, Arlen Krinke has helped foster a learning community that values not just facts and statistics and data—but faith and character and values. At a time when so many are trying to pull kids astray, Arlen Krinke helped to lead them down the right path.

And so on this bittersweet occasion, it is my honor to join the families and students of the St. John Lutheran Community in recognizing Arlen Krinke for his 34 years of service and in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 379, H.R. 3021, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted “yes.”

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RESOLVING TO ADDRESS THE COSTLY OBESITY EPIDEMIC BY IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO AND PRO- MOTION OF NUTRITION, PHYS- ICAL ACTIVITY, AND HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF CONGRESS'S WORK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution to address the obesity epidemic by identifying opportunities in all of Congress's work to increase access to and promotion of nutrition, physical activity, and healthcare.

According to recent estimates, by the time the 111th Congress takes office, 73 percent of American adults could suffer from excess weight or obesity. Nearly 20 percent of our children already struggle with overweight and obesity. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates the current cost of the epidemic to be almost \$120 billion annually. The impact of this reality is vast and it is clear that the time for action is now.

Obesity is a complex problem and there is no single legislative action that will solve our country's growing epidemic. Instead, addressing obesity will require a wide range of policy,

environmental, cultural, and personal changes to truly affect meaningful change. We are fortunate that opportunities abound to have a positive impact on reversing the current trend thru legislation as diverse as a cap on carbon dioxide emissions, Medicare reform, the tax code, transportation policy, and the reauthorization of “No Child Left Behind.”

Congress must work in a bipartisan fashion to identify the opportunities within all major legislative actions to promote health in every policy. In doing so, we can address the obesity epidemic on multiple fronts by improving nutrition, increasing physical activity, and expanding access to care. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to enact legislation that will result in a healthy, active and vibrant society. Please join me in co-sponsoring this resolution and pledging to identify meaningful opportunities to turn the tide on America's obesity epidemic.

MAY AS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record, and bring to my colleague's attention, that the month of May is globally recognized as Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month.

On May 13, 2008, Tami Harbour, her mother Marcia Higgins from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Tami's 94 year-old grandmother Wilma Seely from Owasso, Oklahoma, came to my office with Tami's twin sister Teri to educate my staff and me about Neurofibromatosis (NF).

NF is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form on the nerves of the body. These tumors are not restricted to any certain portion of the body and can appear anywhere, at any time, at any age. NF type 1 strikes one in every 2,500—3,000 people, without regard to race, sex or age. The first signs of the condition are usually multiple cafe-au-lait colored spots on the skin. Some of the youngest victims of this condition can also be subject to optic gliomas—brain tumors that can cause blindness and can be life-threatening. In addition, bone deformities, including scoliosis at an early age, and plexiform tumors, which can cause severe medical problems and turn cancerous, can also be caused by NF. Learning disabilities occur in more than 65 percent of the individuals with NF type 1.

NF type 2 is a genetically distinct form of NF that causes tumors to form on both acoustic nerves, resulting in deafness. NF type 2 also causes visual problems and muscle weakness. Symptoms of this type of neurofibromatosis include ringing in the ears, balance problems, and reduced hearing; however, these symptoms often do not appear until the late teen years, even if the condition has been present since birth. NF type 2 strikes 1 in 30,000 people and does not discriminate by age, sex or race.

At this time, surgery is the only effective treatment to relieve the problems caused by the symptoms of both forms of NF. There is no pharmaceutical treatment to control the growth of tumors and, unfortunately, there is no known cure. Half of the people with NF do

not have a family history of the disorder; however, a person with NF has a 50 percent chance of passing on NF with each child he or she has.

Although Tami is the only one in her family with NF type 1, she learned in her late teens that she had the disorder called Von Recklinghausen's Disease. However, her tumors did not start multiplying until she was a young adult. She has had a few thousand of tumors removed. She is in constant pain, but the condition does not stop her from performing her duties as a housekeeper at the nursing home where she has worked for the past eleven years.

I am encouraged by the NF research being conducted at the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Human Genome Research Institute and medical centers throughout the United States, funded by the National Institutes of Health. With robust federal and privately funded NF research, it is my hope that one day soon we will have a cure for this disease.

TRIBUTE TO TIMILIE WOODRUFF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a wonderful individual from the community of Riverside, Timilie Woodruff, who passed away at her home on May 15, 2008. Timilie was a remarkable woman who was deeply devoted to her family and community.

Timilie was born on November 19, 1940, in Safford, Arizona where she attended Safford High School as well as The University of Arizona. She moved to the City of Riverside in 1969. For the past fourteen years Timilie worked as the Project Coordinator for the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce. Her duties included organizing meetings for ten committees including agendas, notification, reports, minutes, and wanted information. She maintained and produced all correspondence for the President of the Chamber, kept and scheduled his calendar, answered phones and dispensed information to chamber callers. She also put together and choreographed weekly luncheons with major Riverside industries, Chamber Board, and local government officials. Timilie staffed the community leaders "Monday Morning Group" activities and "Leadership Riverside" program and managed schedules, meetings, files, correspondence, and logistics.

Before her job with the Chamber of Commerce, Timilie worked for the University of California, Riverside Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. Timilie handled everything from welcoming new students to serving as an advisor the Student Alumni Association. Timilie also previously worked for the United Way of the Inland Valleys, Riverside and for the American Heart Association, Riverside County Chapter.

Timilie was a valued member of the community and she will be sorely missed. She was a great mother, daughter, grandmother, companion and friend. Timilie is survived by her life partner of 15 years, Paul McAdam; sons,

Lenny and Chris; daughters in-law, Vickie and Debbie; mother, Isabel Nelson; brother, Story Nelson; and 5 grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Timilie will always be remembered for her ready smile, her positive attitude and the joy she brought to the people around her. Thank you and God Bless.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LAKE RIDGE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 25th anniversary of the Lake Ridge Fellowship on June 7, 2008.

Located in Woodbridge, Virginia, this affordable housing development opened its doors in June 1983. Today the Lake Ridge Fellowship House serves over one hundred seniors on fixed incomes. Four out of five residents are women, many are widows who have lost a breadwinner's pension and a lifelong companion. Lake Ridge fills a unique niche in the Woodbridge area by supplying elderly residents with a safe environment in which they can enjoy recreational, educational and community-oriented activities. The Fellowship House is a vibrant example of community activism that should be replicated in other parts of the country.

Additionally, Lake Ridge provides affordable housing to both independent and mobility-impaired individuals. It offers secure and stable residences for seniors, thereby safeguarding citizens who might otherwise be unable to fully fend for themselves. In addition, Lake Ridge hosts arts and crafts, social activities, and boasts quiet reading alcoves. To better assist its mobility-impaired residents, the fellowship house provides transportation to and from local shopping areas.

Lake Ridge is one of only four privately owned fellowship houses in Virginia that are operated by the Fellowship Square Foundation, a subsidiary of the Lutheran Church. Sponsored by the Lutheran Lay Fellowship organization, it is a shining example of how the power of faith is used to fulfill a wide range of needs in our communities.

Madam Speaker, Lake Ridge Fellowship House is more than mere housing; it is the foundation of a rich and meaningful way of life for hundreds of senior citizens. In closing, I would like to congratulate Lake Ridge Fellowship House for providing twenty years of selfless commitment to Northern Virginia, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 25th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA HERRERA-FLANIGAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica

Herrera-Flanigan, Staff Director and General Counsel of the Committee on Homeland Security for her dedication and service. Jessica will be leaving the Committee on Friday, June 6 for the private sector.

When I was the ranking minority member of the then Homeland Security Select Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research and Development, Jessica served as the staff director for the subcommittee. Jessica worked tirelessly with me and then Chairman MAC THORNBERRY on the Homeland Security Department Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2004, which elevated the position of head of the department's National Cyber Security Division within the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate to Assistant Secretary. This change was eventually made in the Homeland Security Authorization Act for FY 2006.

The subcommittee, chaired by Congressman THORNBERRY, was a rare scene of bipartisanship in the 108th Congress. Majority and minority staff collaborated just as minority and majority members did. This seamless bipartisanship reflected well upon Jessica, staff director for the subcommittee.

Jessica's commitment to our Nation's security is demonstrated by her service to the Committee on Homeland Security since its inception in 2003. Her knowledge of cybersecurity and critical infrastructure and other homeland security issues over the years has benefited Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and this Nation and she will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO JAYNE SHAPIRO

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jayne Shapiro, a good friend and a wonderful person. Jayne is being honored at Chabad of The Valley's 35th Annual Banquet with the "Woman of the Year Award" for her outstanding contributions to the health and safety of children in the State of California, to the welfare of the State of Israel and to many charitable organizations.

Soon after Jayne received her masters of public administration from CA State University Northridge, she began to help young and old people from all walks of life regardless of their background, affiliation or financial status. Her professional experience as a nurse and a sexual assault nurse examiner led her to establish a vitally important non-profit organization, KIDS SAFE. Her organization actively advanced numerous educational programs for the protection of children and worked tirelessly to persuade the California State Legislature to introduce the landmark Megan's Law. In 1999, to safeguard school campuses, Jayne established the Los Angeles Task Force on School Safety, bringing together school officials, law enforcement, teachers and parents in an effort to make campuses safer places to learn.

Over the years, Jayne has generously given her time and resources to numerous worthy organizations. She is a member of the National Executive Committee on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and is the former chairperson of the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of the San Fernando Valley. She was appointed by the

Mayor to the Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, by the Governor to the State Developmental Disabilities Board, and by the Attorney General's Office of Continuing Justice Planning to the task force creating public policy on child internet safety. As Chair of the Los Angeles County Committee she helped pass the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at the Federal level. Her dedication to the causes dear to her is an inspiration to us all.

Jayne is the proud mother of four sons who have the same passion and commitment to helping people in our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in saluting Jayne Shapiro and congratulating her upon receiving this richly deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF TODD
"PARNEY" PARNELL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of Todd "Parney" Parnell. Mr. Parnell will be recognized for his service by the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America as their Distinguished Citizen at the 2008 Blair County Friends of Scouting Luncheon on June 11, 2008.

From the time Mr. Parnell graduated from Messiah College in 1988 with a degree in physical education, he has constantly worked to increase the value of the community in which he has lived. Mr. Parnell began his minor league baseball career in 1990 when he joined the Eastern League's Reading Phillies as the club's Director of Sales and Marketing. His vivacity for the business and sports world made him a considered candidate for Assistant General Manager. His dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed, recently he was elected as the League's Representative to the Baseball Chapel. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Parnell served as Vice President and General Manager of the Single-A Knapolls Intimidators in the South Atlantic League. His tenacity to lead a team to success resulted in his recognition as the 1999 South Atlantic League General Manager of the Year.

Today, Mr. Parnell has served the Altoona Curve as their General Manager for seven seasons. His eternal optimism makes him a joy to work with even in the most serious moments of business. Mr. Parnell has been a key factor in helping the Curve set multiple single-game and season attendance marks at the Blair County Ballpark. His outgoing personality has continued to move the team to shatter sponsorship and corporate sales records. Under the steadfast leadership of Mr. Parnell, the Curve has been honored as Minor League Baseball's top franchise and winner of the John H. Johnson President's Trophy. In 2004, Mr. Parnell was awarded the Eastern League Executive of the Year Award, as well as the Larry MacPhail Trophy for promotional excellence. His demonstrated dedication and enthusiasm to the Altoona Curve has allowed the team to soar to new heights and has made them one of the most respected minor league baseball teams.

As he reflects upon his work as General Manager and his lifetime of achievements, Mr. Parnell can certainly be proud of his life of service to his team and his community, in which he has found great success. I look forward to celebrating the contributions and accomplishments of such a dedicated individual. His involvement has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I would like to wish Mr. Todd "Parney" Parnell the best in his future endeavors as he continues to serve the Altoona Curve as General Manager and a true leader. I thank him for his far-reaching commitment and service as he continues to add greatness to his community.

HONORING WILLIAM LOBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Lobbins III of Parkville, Missouri. Brett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Lobbins III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DR. STEPHEN KREBS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Stephen Krebs for being the recipient of the 2008 Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

Dr. Krebs practices Internal Medicine in Wheat Ridge, Colorado and adheres to the highest ethical standards in his medical practice. Dr. Krebs enriches the lives of all that have the fortune to come in contact with him professionally or during his countless hours of volunteer service. Mentoring students, caring for local seniors and treating patients regardless of their ability to pay, Dr. Krebs' devotion to the community is limitless.

In business, Dr. Krebs' generosity is coupled with a continued commitment to conservation. Dr. Krebs recycles all of his household and office materials. In addition, he has converted his entire office to a paperless office significantly reducing paper consumption.

Dr. Stephen Krebs' conviction to ethical standards and initiatives in social responsibility are a model for outstanding ethics in business and is an example for all businesses to emulate. I extend my deepest congratulations to

Dr. Stephen Krebs as the winner of the 2008 Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

TRIBUTE TO THE CONNECTICUT
HUMANITIES COUNCIL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, the humanities have shaped nearly every aspect of our modern civilization, from our political and legal systems to architecture. Today, the proliferation of humanity fields remains as important as ever and the Connecticut Humanities Council has strived to preserve academic and cultural ideals in our community. This year, the Council celebrates its 35th anniversary.

For 35 years, the Connecticut Humanities Council has enriched our community academically and culturally and has provided greater insights into our Connecticut, and more broadly, American roots and values. Through ideology and practice, the Connecticut Humanities Council has also exemplified a public access objective. Since inception, the Council has derived public and private funds to support relevant and accessible humanities programs throughout our community, focusing on history and literature disciplines.

Programs sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council extend beyond the confines of museums, libraries, or any other academic institution. Programs like the family reading program, Motherread/Fatherread, typify the extensions of broader values and life lessons in a meaningful and impactful setting. The Motherread/Fatherread program not only engages a lifelong love of reading and learning, but brings families closer together by encouraging parents to read with their children.

Madam Speaker, on this 35th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing the countless individuals and organizations that have brought the goals of the Council to fruition, by preserving our past and supporting the highest aspirations for our future.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUPER-
INTENDENT STEPHEN WATER-
MAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude and admiration for Stephen J. Waterman on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of schools of Brisbane and Bayshore School Districts.

Stephen Waterman is a special individual, an inspired educator and a passionate advocate for schoolchildren. For fifteen years, he has served as Superintendent of the Brisbane School District, a small, underfunded agency nestled in a bucolic hamlet overlooking San Francisco Bay. His work there to educate children, encourage teachers and motivate parents at a time of dwindling state resources and increased federal mandates was so well-received, that in 2002, neighboring Bayshore School District asked him to do the same for their students.

While in the state legislature, I often met with school superintendents from my district. Even in a room surrounded by his peers, brilliant and committed educators who work against great odds to do the most important job in their communities, Steve Waterman stood out. His facile mind effortlessly navigated complex issues and his unassuming grace and quiet power built confidence in those around him.

Madam Speaker, Superintendent Waterman is retiring much too soon. I understand that he wants to spend more time with his delightful and engaging wife, Paulette, his sons, Kailin and Christian, and grandson, Granite. If I could, I would introduce legislation to force Stephen to keep working—maybe even require him to take on a few more school districts. But, alas, I can't do that. Instead, I can only wish him luck in his future endeavors and trust that his replacements can build on Stephen's achievements.

After growing up in Rochester, New York, Stephen received his Bachelor of Arts from Le Moyne University, a Master of Science from Southern Illinois, a Doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis and a Law Degree from the University of San Francisco. Throughout this time, he worked in virtually every job available in public education, from classroom teacher to program supervisor and eventually, superintendent.

Madam Speaker, every year, Congress debates and passes legislation to improve or enhance some aspect of public education. We do that because, unfortunately, it isn't possible to create more Stephen Watermans.

Throughout his life, Superintendent Waterman has empowered students with a love of learning. A man of his talents would excel in any field. But the world is a better place because he chose to devote his considerable intelligence, charm and energy to education.

For this, thousands of past and present students, their fortunate parents and the entire 12th Congressional District are eternally grateful.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE
D'HARNONCOURT (1943–2008)

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, the City of Philadelphia, its arts community and in fact all citizens who cherish our rich cultural environment are in mourning at the untimely loss of Anne d'Harnoncourt, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Anne d'Harnoncourt was, as described by her countless friends and admirers, a world class leader of the arts who developed, led and leaves as her legacy a vibrant, world-class institution.

Director of the Museum since 1982 and the George D. Widener Director and Chief Executive Officer since 1997, she led the institution with greatness and grace, overseeing a massive project to reinstall all of the European collections in more than 90 galleries; renovation of 20 galleries of modern and contemporary art followed in 2000. Last September, another dream of hers was realized with opening of

the Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building, a neighboring landmark, with greatly expanded, state-of-the-art facilities for specialized Museum collections. As a special gift to the people of Philadelphia, this annex opened admission free for its first four months.

Anne d'Harnoncourt's fund raising prowess was legendary. She led the Museum through two major capital campaigns: the Landmark Renewal Fund, which raised \$64 million between 1986 and 1993; and the 2001 FUND 125th Anniversary Campaign which concluded in 2004, exceeding its goal and raising over \$246 million.

H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest, Chairman of the Art Museum Board of Trustees, offered the following comment to the media as the Museum broke the sad news: "Anne's death is a severe loss to our beloved Museum, to the world of art and to those who knew and loved her. I have never known a person with more human attributes: she was learned, a gifted speaker, had an effervescent personality, was a great director and, above all, a deeply caring person. We will miss her greatly."

It is important to note that Anne d'Harnoncourt's contributions and impact go far beyond the Art Museum's sturdy walls and its towering structure that overlooks the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a thoroughfare described as Philadelphia's Champs Elysees. Under her leadership, the Art Museum has served as the anchor for arts, culture, music and civic celebration for all Philadelphians. The museum has become increasingly accessible to Philadelphia's diverse communities, both in its admissions policies, its community outreach and in its choice of showcase artists, such as the Henry Ossawa Tanner retrospective in the early 1990s that saluted the great Philadelphia raised African-American artist.

I was proud to have Anne d'Harnoncourt as a friend. I extend my condolences to her husband, Joseph J. Rishel, her legions of admirers and friends, and I urge my colleagues to join in honoring her memory.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST
QUINCY J. GREEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Specialist Quincy J. Green, who died on Monday June 2, 2008 of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Green was killed in a non-combat related incident while operating in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Tikrit, Iraq. Specialist Green was assigned to Headquarters Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, United States Army in Fort Riley, Texas. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Specialist Quincy J. Green. Specialist Green made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Terror and defending democracy and freedom.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIXVILLE COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation as they celebrate their 10th anniversary of service to the greater Phoenixville community.

The Foundation began as the Phoenixville Health Care Corporation in 1997. After a year of tirelessly working to create a sustainable medical infrastructure and charitable services, the Board of Directors embraced the mission of creating a vision of community health for the Phoenixville region. The Board of Directors decided to change the name of the Phoenixville Health Care Corporation to the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation to reflect their desire to implement a community health approach. Since June of 1998, the Foundation has developed a strong presence in the greater Phoenixville community's health sector. Even as the Foundation expanded its operation, the Board of Directors ensured that the development of the Foundation was in keeping with their original mission and vision.

Currently, the Foundation is increasing its charitable services and working diligently to fulfill the medical needs of the Phoenixville residents. The Foundation has achieved its vision of "championing the needs of the community" and establishes new community health programs each year. The exemplary service of the Foundation was formally recognized in 2003 with the honorary distinction of "Outstanding Foundation in the Delaware Valley." The eventual sale of the Phoenixville Hospital added \$20.5 million to the Foundation and increased their total funding to \$48.5 million. Since 1998 the Foundation has issued over 1,600 grants to non-profit organizations in the Phoenixville community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the great men and women of The Phoenixville Community Health Foundation as they celebrate 10 years of protecting the health and wellness of Phoenixville area residents. The contributions and hard work of every member of the Foundation have strengthened Phoenixville's community health programs and ensured that the Foundation will be a cherished part of our community culture for many years to come.

BELLEVUE YOUTH LINK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bellevue Youth Link, the city of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools for their continued success in giving the youth in Bellevue a voice in the community and a wonderful opportunity to stay active in Bellevue and their respective neighborhoods.

Since 1990, Youth Link has served in Bellevue and Washington State's Eighth District as

a whole in wonderful ways—let me just list some of the recognition Youth Link has received in their 18 years of service:

Back in 1992, the National League of Cities awarded Youth Link an award for innovation and in 1994, the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission recognized Youth Link for excellence in Youth & Government Partnerships for their Bellevue Safe Rides program. The recognition has continued, as evidenced by 3 years—2006, 2007 and 2008—with Bellevue being recognized as one of the best communities in our Nation for young people.

The unprecedented efforts of people like Helena Stephens, the manager of Family, Youth and Teen Services, and Terry Smith, assistant Parks and Community Services director, do not go unnoticed and have forever altered the landscape of the Bellevue community. And the outstanding volunteerism and spirit of public service of the youth involved in Youth Link is truly inspirational and a perfect example of generations of Americans coming together to improve an already great community.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation urging the Government of the Republic of Iraq to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

As Congress joins with the people of Israel to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary, there are still many countries in the world which refuse to recognize our Middle Eastern ally's right to exist. Sadly, Iraq is one of them.

The United States has provided Iraq with nearly \$50 billion in security and economic assistance to date, none of which has been repaid. Yet despite this enormous amount of aid, the Government of Iraq refuses to recognize Israel, the most reliable ally of the United States in the Middle East. This isn't right.

Establishing ties with Israel would help Iraq grow. Since its birth in 1948, Israel has emerged as a worldwide leader and expert in the agricultural, medical, and technological fields. Israel has the ability to forge a unique partnership with Iraq which would greatly benefit from the skills and knowledge of the Israeli workforce. Trade between the two countries would also help Iraq build an economy that is vibrant and independent of the energy sector while helping to foster democracy in the heart of the Middle East. This will never happen, however, unless Iraq moves beyond the draconian rhetoric of the past and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

The resolution I am introducing today calls on the Government of Iraq to recognize Israel's right to exist and establish diplomatic relations with our Middle Eastern friend. My resolution also calls on Iraq and other states to work with Israel and the U.S. in fighting the

spread of extremism and terrorism throughout the world. Finally, the resolution urges the Administration to persuade Iraq and other countries to recognize Israel's right to exist.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution which encourages the Government of Iraq to finally recognize our great ally's right to exist. I call on the leadership of the House to support this resolution.

CONGRATULATING JIM FRANCE, RECIPIENT OF POCONO RACEWAY'S 2008 BILL FRANCE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James C. France, vice chairman and executive vice president of NASCAR and chairman and CEO of International Speedway Corporation, who was named 2008 recipient of the Pocono Raceway's Bill France Award of Excellence.

This award has been presented annually since 1977 to the person, corporation or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the sport of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Racing.

The award is dedicated to the inspiration of William H.G. France, founder of NASCAR and the father of this year's recipient.

Jim France grew up in the early years of stock car racing, living and learning every aspect of the sport from his own experience and from his father and brother.

Mr. France joined ISC in 1959, working in all phases of operations. He was elected to the ISC board in 1970 and has served as the company's secretary, assistant treasurer, vice president, chief operating officer and executive vice president before being named the company's president and chief operating officer in 1987. He was also named to the NASCAR board of directors in 2000.

France has been involved in motorsports most of his life. He has been a strong supporter of motorcycle racing in the United States, as evidenced by his professional involvement in the sport. He was active in Legends car racing and the Allison "Legacy" Car Series. He was BF Goodrich Legends Cars national tour champion in 1992 and had a good deal of success in the Gatorade Florida Legends Series.

He served as starter for the U.S. Motorcycle Grand Prix in the late 1960s, raced dirt track races for nearly five years and has been a member of the American Motorcyclist Association for more than 30 years. In addition, France has raced karts on both dirt and asphalt and he has served as a board member of the Automobile Competition Committee of the United States.

Dr. Joseph Mattioli, chairman and CEO of Pocono International Raceway, has stated that Mr. France was "a driving force behind NASCAR's success . . ." He added that he is proud to announce that Mr. France has been selected as this year's award recipient.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. France on this auspicious oc-

casión. Certainly, his lifelong commitment to the motorsport industry has had a tremendously positive economic impact for thousands of families in this great nation and has created a permanent place of honor for Jim France and the entire France family.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK O'NEILL

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join with me today to pay tribute to an exceptional General Officer in the United States Army, Brigadier General Mark O'Neill, upon his retirement from active military service.

General O'Neill's distinguished career spans over 30 years of service to our great Nation, culminating as Deputy Commandant of the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1978 after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has served in command and staff positions with the 82d Airborne Division, 10th Mountain Division, 25th Infantry Division, and the 3rd Infantry Division. He has commanded tactical units at the platoon, company, battalion and brigade level, and served as the Chief of Staff of the 10th Mountain Division. He has also served as Assistant Army Attaché in the Defense Attaché Office, American Embassy, Beijing, China, and as a strategic analyst on the Army Staff at the Pentagon. In addition to service during Operation Iraqi Freedom, General O'Neill has served during Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

In addition to attendance at numerous U.S. Army and Joint Force tactical courses and schools, General O'Neill is a graduate of the U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer's Course, the Defense Language Institute, and the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs. He completed advanced Chinese language and area studies while assigned to the U.S. Defense Liaison Office in Hong Kong where he studied at the Beijing University School of Foreign Languages and the British Ministry of Defense Chinese Language School. General O'Neill is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, four awards of the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

As a Member of Congress, I am extremely fortunate to call Mark a friend. In fact, Mark and I were junior high and high school classmates and we've taken advantage of our existing friendship to foster a strong working relationship. I will miss his candor and his guidance. I ask my colleagues to join me today to thank General O'Neill, his wife Lori, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifice and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career.

TRIBUTE TO THE 51ST ANNUAL
PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the 51st Anniversary of the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, which will be held on June 8th, 2008, in New York City. A luminous and star-studded event, this parade proudly recognizes the heritage of Puerto Ricans in the United States, and year after year has proven to be one of our Nation's largest outdoor festivities.

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade is the successor to the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, which held its inaugural celebration on Sunday, April 12th, 1958, in "El Barrio," Manhattan. The impact of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York was both immediate and resounding. It galvanized thousands of New York Puerto Ricans in a very public, very proud demonstration of their emergence in the City as an important and growing ethnic group. For the next 38 years, the New York Puerto Rican Day Parade grew into a staple of New York's cultural life. In 1995, the overwhelming success of the parade prompted organizers to increase its size and transform it into the national and, indeed, international, affair that it is today.

This magnificent New York institution now includes participation from delegates representing over thirty States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and attracts well over 3 million parade goers every year. In addition, the parade reaches millions more through television broadcasts on network affiliates, Spanish-language stations, and via satellite to viewers the world over.

The great success that the parade enjoys each year is brought about, in large measure, by the continued and tireless efforts of a choice few individuals—women and men of able leadership and strong conviction, who believe, as I do, in the limitless potential of people of Puerto Rican descent. Leading this effort is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization designed to foster self-awareness and pride among Puerto Ricans in this country, and in so doing, likewise address issues of economic development, education, cultural recognition, and social advancement.

The Parade's march up New York's Fifth Avenue, while certainly the most visible aspect of the celebration, is hardly the only event associated with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Inc.'s activities. Each year more than 10,000 people attend a variety of award ceremonies, banquets and cultural events that strengthen the special relationship shared by Puerto Ricans and the City of New York. Over the years, the two have developed a symbiotic relationship. Puerto Ricans have shared a vibrant and beautiful culture that has helped to transform New York into a dynamic, bilingual city. Meanwhile, the City of New York has enabled Puerto Ricans to flourish economically, culturally and politically.

Each year the parade honors several individuals who have made tremendous contributions not only to the Puerto Rican community but the Nation as a whole. This year's honorees include Dennis Rivera, SEIU Healthcare Chair and former SEIU 1199 President, who will serve as the parade's Grand Marshall; Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award; and local merchant, songwriter, performer and community leader Mike Amadeo and Assemblywoman Noemi Rivera who will serve as honorary Godfather and Godmother of the Parade respectively. Parade organizers will also pay tribute to the town of Lajas, located in the southwest corner of Puerto Rico.

Madam Speaker, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade captures the spirit of this special relationship. It celebrates the myriad ways that Puerto Ricans enrich the traditions of this country, and sends a clear signal to all who witness it, that the Puerto Rican community, both in New York and nationally, represents an exquisite tapestry of individuals. As a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, and someone who participates in this parade annually, I can attest that the reverberations of this day are both vast and glorious. They can be seen on the faces and heard in the streets, as millions come together to joyously proclaim their heritage. And so it is, Madam Speaker, that with a full and proud heart, I stand before you and my colleagues in Congress to pay tribute to the sights, sounds and wonder that is the National Puerto Rican Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Killingly, Connecticut. Over the course of 2008, Killingly's residents have and will continue to celebrate 300 years of history.

Killingly's ability to adapt and to transform with modern advancements have been evident

since early settlement. Although the original settlement was rooted in agriculture production, like other colonial towns, modern amenities such as taverns, blacksmith shops, grist and saw mills were prevalent. By the end of the 18th century, William Danielson developed a successful iron works and William Cundall created one of Connecticut's earliest woolen works. With these modern amenities and connection with the New England railroad network, Killingly soon grew to an industrial hub.

Over the past 300 years, Killingly has been the setting for momentous events as well as home and birthplace to many notable figures in American history. In 1750, Israel Proctor deeded his land to his servants, laying a progressive foundation for successive abolitionist, Henry Hammond, and an Underground Railroad network. In addition, Mary Dixon Kies, the first woman in the U.S. to receive a patent, and Charles Lewis Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Co., were both born and raised in Killingly.

Madam Speaker, for 300 years Killingly and its residents have adapted, endured, and thrived in light of significant pressures from changing local, national and international dynamics. On Saturday, May 31, 2008, I had the pleasure of participating in a tercentennial parade. The outpouring of support and warm wishes from Killingly citizens was truly telling of the strength and unity of this community. On this tercentennial, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents with honoring and celebrating this 300th anniversary.

DIANE CECCHETTINI

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MultiCare Health System CEO Diane Cecchetti for earning the 2008 "CEO IT Achievement Award" from Modern Healthcare Magazine and the Healthcare Information and Management System Society, HIMSS.

Ms. Cecchetti will receive her award during National Health IT Week, which calls attention to the need for health information technology to provide better, more affordable health care for all Americans. Health IT enables health care providers with a more comprehensive view of patients' health histories, making care more accurate and less costly. I commend Ms. Cecchetti and Multicare for adopting an electronic medical records system that is improving the quality of care for their patients and reducing administrative burdens and costs. The Pacific Northwest remains a hub of technological innovation, and it is encouraging to see networks like MultiCare using technological advances to enhance the lives of their patients.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Ms. Cecchetti and MultiCare's network of health organizations for receiving this honor.